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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY Ethiopia, Somalia

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Somali Demands on the Sinclair Oil Company in the Ogaden
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INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 21 October 1947

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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1. On 6 August the Somali Youth League transmitted through the Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Reserved Areas, a letter to the Sinclair Co. which stated that the Somalis intended to be independent of Ethiopian rule and that the Sinclair Co. should deal with the Somalis directly.
2. On 8 August a Sinclair geological crew convoy of vehicles was surrounded by "a wild howling mob of young Somalis" who stoned and considerably damaged several of the vehicles. The incident occurred one hour south of Dagabur in the Ogaden. The mob was dispersed by police attached to the District Commissioner at Awareh without firing, and some arrests were made. No personnel of the Sinclair Co. was injured.
3. On 9 August the same convoy proceeded on its way and was fired upon by "6 bandits" who wounded a driver and shot out one tire of a truck. The driver of this truck was robbed. Another truck arrived with two native policemen who fired into the brush and dispersed the attackers without drawing return fire.
4. On 14 August the Sheikh of the Wadare region, Sultan Rafeh bin Gulet, demanded in the presence of the British District Commissioner that he be paid royalty for oil found in his area. The D.C. stated to him that he would receive no compensation or royalty.
5. On 15 August the Sheikh's son, Delana bin Rafeh, and the leader of the local Somali Youth League, Mohammed bin Richad, met with the Sinclair Co. representative and presented conflicting demands that royalty be paid to the League and to the Sheikh. Both stated that the country had never been under Ethiopian rule and would not submit to it in future. They further stated that the British occupation was, in their minds, purely temporary.
6. The District Commissioner later reported to the Sinclair representative that he had heard of this meeting and had given orders that the Somali leaders were not again to approach the Sinclair men except in his presence.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1968 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

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CLASSIFICATION

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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